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Statewide

OMAEG Submits Comments in Demand Response Investigation (Case No. 22-1024-AU-COI)

Summary: As you may recall, last November, the PUCO initiated an investigation to consider adopting a new demand response (DR) standard pursuant to the 2021 federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (IIJA). Initial [comments](#) were filed on Jan. 10, 2023 by the OMAEG and other parties, and this week the OMAEG submitted [reply comments](#).

The OMAEG reiterated that the PUCO should adopt the DR standard, and supported initial comments arguing that DR and demand flexibility services are most appropriate when offered as competitive services. As such, the OMAEG urged the PUCO to adopt and implement the DR standard in a manner that recognizes the need for (and supports) competitive DR options and services. Other parties similarly supported adoption of the DR standard, as well as offering competitive options.

A public hearing has been scheduled for Feb. 13.

Columbia

PUCO Approves Columbia Settlement (Case Nos. 21-637-GA-AIR, et al.)

Summary: This week, the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio (PUCO) modified and approved the settlement agreement supported by the OMAEG and a majority of the parties regarding Columbia's base rate case and alternative rate plan. This settlement significantly reduces Columbia's proposed revenue increase from \$221.4 million (a net increase of 27.07%) to \$68.192 million (a net increase of 7.97%).

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WEEKLY BRIEFING



Of the \$68.192 million, \$64.507 million (about 94%) will be allocated to the SGS class consistent with cost-of-service principles.

Additionally, Columbia agreed to withdraw its proposals to implement the Federal/State Tax Reform Rider, Carbon Reduction Rider, new Regulatory Assessment Rider, and Federally Mandated Investment Rider.

The PUCO modified the settlement to require Columbia to use shareholder dollars to fund its \$3.5 million bill payment assistance program, instead of partially funding it by SGS/SGTS customers.